THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government is examining the question of filing a Special Leave Petition before the Supreme Court to suspend this judgment.

दृष्टिहीन बालिकाओं के कल्याण के लिये विशेष कार्यक्रम

3521. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह :** कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने दृष्टिहीन बालिकाओं के लिये कोई विशेष कार्यक्रम तैयार किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसकी मुख्य विशेषताएं क्या-क्या हैं, तथा पिछले एक वर्ष के दौरान इस कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत कितनी दृष्टिहीन बालिकाओं को लाभ मिला है; और

(ग) इस क्षेत्र में कितने संगठन कार्यरत हैं तथा उन्हें सहायता प्रदान करने की सरकार की क्या योजनाएं हैं ?

कल्याण मंत्री (श्री सीताराम केसरी) : (क) से (ग) विकलांग व्यक्तियों हेतु संगठनों को सहायता की योजना के अन्तर्गत मंत्रालय द्वारा 44 ऐसे गैर सरकारी संगठनों को सहायता दी गई, जो नेत्रहीन व्यक्तियों को प्रशिक्षण, शिक्षा तथा अन्य पुनर्वासात्मक सेवाएं प्रदान कर रहे हैं। 1991-92 में इन संगठनों को 152.58 लाख रुपये की निर्मुक्त की गई । 1992-93 के लिए निर्मुक्त किए जाने वाला सहायता अनुदान इनके कार्य निष्पादन पर निर्भर होगा।

Infant Milk Code

@3521-A. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an inordinate delay in enactment of Infant Milk Code;

(b) whether there ar emany glaring shortfalls in the Bill.

(c) whether Government are aware that in the absence of clear rules manufacturers in India are using two three years old expired milk powder; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that the new Infant Food Code clearly mentions that the infant foods can be made directly only from fresh milk and not from milk powders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPAREMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMAN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) KUM. MAMTA BANERJEE: (a) The Indian National Code for protection and promotion of Breast feeding has been adopted by Government in 1983. To give effect to the provisions of the code, a Bill entitled "Infant milk Foods and Feeding Bottles (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill 1986" was introduced and passed in the Rajya Sabha. But the Bill lapsed in November, 1989 due to dissolution of VIII Lok Sabha. A revision Bill entitled "Infant Milk Foods, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production Supply and Distribution) Bill, 1991" was introduced in the Lok Sabha after incorporating the suggestions received from various quarters.

@Previously Unstarred Question 2906, Transferred from 5th August, 1992.

But the Bill apsed in May 1991 due to dissolution of the IX Lok Sabha. Again a Bill entitled "Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 1992" has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 8-5-1992. The Bill is listed for discussions in Lok Sabha during the current session of the Parliament.

(b) The Bill is a comprehensive document and has been drafted with utmost care and incorporates all necessary provisions for Protection and Promotion of Breast-feeding in India.

(c) The provisions contained in Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955 clearly lay down the standards and labelling regulations for Infant Milk Foods and Infant Formula. To ensure standardization and quality of these products, it is mandatory to have B.I.S. certification before these products are marketed.

(d) Clause 11 of the Bill endorses that the standards of Infant Milk Substitutes and Infant Foods should conform to the standards specified for such products in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and the rules thereunder. Further, the approval of Government is required where no standards have been specified for any Infant Milk Substitutes or Infant Foods under P.F.A. Act 1954 so as to ensure the quality of these products.

Consultation by Baby Food Code Activists

@@3521-B. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRA:

SHRI K. R. JAYADEVAPPA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a Consultation was held by Baby-food Code activists at Y.M.C.A. New Delhi on 17th July, 1992;

(b) whether it is a fact that the discussions brought out the failure of Government to enforce and enact the Baby food Code even though Government was a party to it since 1983;

(c) whether it is also a fact that at the above consultation several participants pointed out the role played by present Chairman N.D.D.B. in blocking the Code in order to help G.C.M.M.F. of which he is a paid Chairman; and

(d) whether failure to enforce the code is affecting well being of the infants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPAREMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMAN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUM. MAMTA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The participants expressed their concern on aggressive promotion, through advertisement. of Infant Milk Substitutes and Infant Foods by manufacturers. They expressed the hope that the legislation giving effect to the provisions of the Indian National Code for protection and promotion of breast feeding would be enacted early to promote breast feeding in India.

(c) Indian has already adopted the Indian National Code for protection and promotion of breast feeding in 1983. The participants, however, expressed concern about the advertisements and aggressive marketing practices followed by the manufacturers including G.C.M.M.F.

(d) It is fully recognised that breast feeding is the most ideal form of feeding for the growth and development of infants. A Bill, to protect and promote breast feeding. entitled "Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation

@@Previously Unstarred Question 2907, Transferred from 5th August 1992.